payment of *tharavila* in the case of the depressed classes and the poor of all communities and remission of *thadivila* up to a limit of Rs. 10 per acre has also been provided for. Similarly, Government have the power to dispense with auction in any particular case in which such departure is justifiable or desirable. In the case of valuable improvements, the lands will be assigned to the occupants without auction. I do not, therefore, see what extensive change of policy is required in the Puduval Rules just now.

As for the swamps in the reserved forests, I have already said that the question of appointing Committees for investigating the question is engaging the attention of Government.

12. Impropriety of abolishing the Mavelikara taluk.

Mr. C. K. Krishna Pillai (Member, Mavelikara Taluk) referred to the report of the Devaswom Separation Committee and pointed out how it was proposed to find funds for the creation of the new Devaswom Department by the abolition of five taluks and the Padmanabhapuram Division. He referred to the opinions expressed by the late Settlement Peishkar, Mr. S. Padmanabha Aiyar, and Dewan Mr. P. Rajagopalachari, against the reduction of taluks which were formed more for the convenience of the public than for anything else. He pointed out that the Government would be well-advised if they could find other sources of income to meet this new item of expenditure. He also made references to the various memorials already submitted to Government in regard to the proposed abolition of the taluks as indicating the large volume of public opinion against the proposal. He suggested that, instead of abolishing the taluks for the sake of funds, a reduction in the number of *pakuthies* of smaller dimensions might be resolved upon and said that this would give the Government the saving of a sum more than enough for organising the Devaswom Department. By the reduction of *pakuthies* whose number was increased at the last Settlement, no great inconvenience or hardship would ensue to the general public, while the reduction of taluks would be highly distasteful to the people in that they would be thereby deprived of the benefits long enjoyed by them. In case Government resolved to abolish the five taluks, the Member prayed that Mavelikara, which was not included in the Committee's report, might be left intact for the following reasons :—

(1) that, by the abolition of the Mavelikara taluk and the amalgamation of the same with Kartikapalli, the location of the taluk office would be at a place 4 miles away from the westernmost limit and 20 miles away from the easternmost limit of the taluk, whereas, by the abolition of the Kartikapalli taluk, the location of the office would be 12 miles equidistant from the borders of the two taluks;

(2) that, in respect of schools, markets and other human necessities, the Mavelikara taluk possessed better facilities than Kartikapalli which had no river, High Schools, good roads or a telegraph office;

(3) that, by the abolition of the taluks of Chengannur and Mavelikara, there would be no taluk office between Kartikapalli and Pattanamtitta for a distance of 35 miles;

(4) that Mavelikara was more important than Kartikapalli, as could be seen from the memorial and memorandum already submitted to Government by the local inhabitants ;

(5) that Mavelikara is larger and more populous than Kartikapalli; and

(6) that Mavelikara was the abode of several Malayala Kshatriya families, and was, besides, a flourishing taluk the progress of which should not be handicapped in any way.

The Member also prayed that either a First or Second Class Magistrate's Court be established at Mavelikara, in case the Tahsildar was divested of his magisterial functions.

Dewan's reply.—The matter has not been finally decided. On my part, I have kept the promise to keep the question open till the Assembly is over. Your representations will be very carefully considered before a decision is reached.

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